

Function 250: General Science, Space, and Technology

This function includes the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and general science programs within the Department of Energy (DOE).

For 2001, the conference agreement on the Republican budget resolution provides \$20.2 billion in appropriated funding for science programs, which includes \$100 million that Democrats, led by Congressman Rush Holt (D-NJ), added during the House Budget Committee's consideration of the budget. This level of funding is a \$600 million increase in purchasing power for 2001, but that increase is not maintained over time. By 2004, the outlays in the conference agreement represent a cut in purchasing power and by 2005, both budget authority and outlays are below the level required to maintain purchasing power at 2000 levels.

- ***Comparison with House and Senate Resolutions*** — For Function 250, the conference agreement is the same as the House resolution and \$0.6 billion above the Senate resolution over five years (2001-2005).
- ***Democrats Increase Funding for NSF*** — The 2001 total in the conference agreement is \$75 million less than what Democrats, led by Congressman Holt, tried to provide during the House Budget Committee mark-up. Congressman Holt offered an amendment to increase funding for NSF by \$675 million (17 percent) for 2001, and by \$3.9 billion over five years (2001-2005). Republicans reduced the increase to only \$100 million before accepting the scaled-back amendment.
- ***Democrats Pressured Republicans to Add Funding*** — The night before bringing the resolution to the House floor, Republicans succumbed to Democratic pressure to increase funding for science and technology by adding an additional \$500 million to Function 250 for 2001 (\$3.0 billion over 2001-2005). To pay for this increase, however, the Republicans imposed an additional \$500 million in unspecified cuts in non-defense funding for 2001 in Function 920 (Allowances), and an additional \$5.9 billion in cuts over 2001-2005. The conference agreement maintains the House level for Function 250, but for 2001 makes even larger unspecified cuts in Function 920.